



**METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION**

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**DRAFT**

**MTC Advisory Council  
October 10, 2007  
Minutes**

Margaret Okuzumi called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. In attendance were members Steve Belkin, John Cockle, Paul Cohen, Raphael Durr, Karla Goodbody, Mary Griffin, William Hastings, Richard Hedges, Kathryn Hughes, John Inks, Cathy Jackson, Eli Naor, Michael Pechner, Bob Planthold, Ray Razavi, Don Rothblatt, and Xiao-Yun Lu. Also in attendance were EDAC members Marshall Loring, and David Grant.

**Minutes**

Mr. Hedges moved approval of the minutes, Mr. Planthold seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Staff Report**

Ms. Therese Knudsen reminded the committee that staff will be coordinating a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Tour of Dublin's TOD sites at the East and future West Dublin BART stations on Friday, October 19, 2007. Interested members were advised to contact Doug Johnson by October 10.

She also mentioned that the Fall Forum will take place on October 26, 2007 from 8:30 am – 2:00 pm at the Oakland Marriott City Center. Attendees will preview some of the major decisions anticipated as part of an update to MTC's long-range transportation policy and investment blueprint, known as Transportation 2035.

Ms. Knudsen also indicated that Advisory Council members could be reimbursed for parking expenses when attending meetings, but not parking tickets. She indicated that there is a parking lot a few blocks away on Oak near the Oakland Museum, or non-metered street parking near 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets. Taking transit to the meetings is encouraged.

Ms. Knudsen introduced Ross McKeown, of MTC's Programming and Allocations section, who presented a brief report on additional funding available in the region. Mr. McKeown stated that staff identified approximately \$70 million in Congestion Management and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funding that needs to be programmed quickly, as it needs to be obligated by December 2008. Based on input from the Bay Area Partnership and other advisory committees, three projects are under consideration: 1) Safety issues on the Golden Gate Bridge, (approximately \$20 million); 2) Highway 101 Gap Closure in Marin County (through a funding exchange with the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) – TAM would provide flexible cash repayment that

would enable funding non-traditional projects), (approximately \$12 million) and 3) Resolution 3434 transit expansion projects (remaining balance of \$39 million). Final recommendations will be brought to MTC's Programming and Allocations Committee in November 2007.

Advisory Council comments:

- How are Disadvantaged Businesses factored in to the process? Response: Caltrans manages this with the project sponsors, but all projects must be in alignment with Federal requirements.
- Would shuttle/paratransit be eligible? Response: Yes, as long as they meet the CMAQ requirements (i.e. new projects, operating funds only for 3 years, etc.)

### **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update**

Ms. Ashley Nguyen reported on the current planning activities happening in the month of October, and summarized the next phase of the RTP development.

Ms. Nguyen stated that staff is conducting a 15-minute telephone poll of Bay Area residents that solicit public opinion on key transportation priorities as well as issues relating to land use, climate change and pricing. Staff anticipates presenting the poll results at the October 26<sup>th</sup> event. She also mentioned that MTC's RTP outreach consultant is conducting intercept surveys with people who are not likely to participate in meetings or outreach activities to solicit their opinions on climate change, transportation priorities, land use and pricing.

The next phase will focus on a policy discussion that helps to define the nature and direction of the "greater vision" to emerge from the scenario performance assessment and Transportation 2035 Three Es and goals. Ms. Nguyen summarized some of the key milestones that will be occurring starting in November and extending through June 2008. She noted that staff will be doing more technical work in regard to air quality conformity, environmental assessments, and developing the plan itself beginning in July through October.

Staff anticipates having a Draft RTP document in December 2008 for public review and Commission adoption in February 2009.

Committee comments include:

- When are Advisors involved in the process – Response: every month
- Advisors should be consulted before the kitchen cabinet workshops, as well as after with the results
- Schedule meetings sooner vs. later so everyone can plan to attend
- Suggest having sub-regional business workshops, should tap into chambers of commerce
- Is the polling done through random sample? Response: No, it is stratified to capture under-represented groups.
- Need to have enough workshops to cover the nine Bay Area counties – 3 is not enough
- Like to see more workshops and include some city/county planners, superintendents of schools, Executive Director of nonprofit housing, etc. into the kitchen cabinet workshops.

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Rebecca Long highlighted a number of important transportation-related bills that are currently awaiting the Governor's signature – AB 976 (Torlakson), which creates a new Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority that would replace the current Water Transit

Authority and consolidate all existing public ferry operations with the exception of Golden Gate, SB 717 (Perata), which revises the formula for Prop. 42 to increase the share of transit funding that goes to State Transit Assistance, and AB 574 (Torrico), which eliminates the sunset date that authorizes the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority and the Sunol Smart Carpool Lane Joint Powers Authority to implement high-occupancy/toll lanes within their respective jurisdictions.

Committee comments include:

- Would like to have the bills provided in a matrix format prior to the meeting.
- Regarding comments made at the September meeting about a federal gas tax to be spent on bridges – It is not likely to happen because there are much broader issues/areas for revenue to be spent than just on bridges.

### **Station Area Planning Guidelines**

Mr. James Corless noted that the Station Area Planning Guidelines will be presented at the Planning Committee on Friday, October 12, 2007. He summarized staff's recommendations, which are 1) revise the policy just for the ferry terminals to have a minimum of 2500 units around ferry terminals where development is feasible, 2) release the next call for projects for applications for the Station Area Planning Program and to include, beyond these extension corridors, the Priority Development Areas, and 3) use the Station Area Planning Manual as the guidelines for the next call for projects.

Committee comments include:

- Are the guidelines advisory or a mandate? How do you make the bolder step of requiring them? Response: the TOD policy requires minimum levels of development for the corridor
- Criteria for next call for projects should go before Advisory Council

### **Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Choices Update**

Ms. Valerie Knepper presented some brief background on the TOD Choices project.

She noted that MTC is embarking on a new effort that aims to address TOD issues through surveys and interviews of TOD residents in the San Francisco Bay Area.

She stated that MTC, working with staff from ABAG, transit and congestion management agencies, has now selected the consulting firm of Cambridge Systematics, Inc. to assist in this study effort, which is supported by a planning grant of \$300,000 by Caltrans.

She noted that the kick-off meeting was well attended. Staff explored the various interests and focused on refining the study workscope, determining who would be surveyed, as well as what the focus of the surveys would be.

Committee comments include:

- It would be interesting to know whether people who move into TOD moved from an area where they already used transit, and more generally, where are people moving from
- Survey housing and redevelopment agencies
- Collaborate on marketing with developments in Millbrae

- Developers may have already done a lot of market research (Yes, but often they are not willing to share it)
- Engage developers in discussions.
- The quality of the design is often overlooked.
- The real question we should be asking is what type of cities do we want to live in – we should work towards building and designing these types of communities. Survey results can lead to false information – anecdotal.
- There are many factors involved in why someone moves to a TOD
- What is “proximity” to transit – Study will use ¼ to ½ mile – will be determined
- The survey needs to address low-income displacement (if people get displaced, what would it take for them to come back?)
- Need to settle on a name for the study – do not recommend TOD – something like Housing Choices and Location Study
- Market-price parking should be encouraged – people should get a price break if they don’t have a car.
- Develop a dedicated website for this study to provide on-going updates.

### **2007/08 Work Plan**

Ms. Knudsen stated that MTC Resolution 3516 specifies that each MTC citizen advisory committee develop an annual work plan. She noted that many of the major areas of interest on Advisory Council’s 2006/2007 Work Plan (part 1) continue to be relevant topics of interest to the Commission. Part 2 of the Work Plan focuses on topics that are of interest to Advisory Council members, but may or may not be under the Commission’s consideration.

She noted that once the council approves its plan, it will be forwarded to MTC’s Legislation Committee for their information.

Ms. Margaret Okuzumi summarized the Work Plan, and requested the committee to review and make any suggestions.

Mr. Bob Planthold noted that Part 1 is more what’s currently on the agenda of MTC, and Part 2 of the Work Plan is the more visionary prospective ideal approach.

Committee comments include:

- Would like to see more interaction with small business – (One way would be to engage small business in the RTP process)
- Transportation 2035 should be the major focus.

### **Other Business/Public Comment**

There was no other business. The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for November 14, 2007. The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.